

As a former law enforcement officer, some of the very first calls I responded to involved domestic violence. During my years as a young officer, I saw firsthand the damage this uniquely heinous crime can do to survivors and their families. As a homicide investigator later, I saw it on a continual basis through the court system and the devastation that it means to families across America.

This is an issue close to my heart and one I have focused my public policy efforts on from day one of my public service. Beginning with my time as a member of the Arizona legislature, all the way to the Halls of Congress, I have advocated for survivors, their children, and the resources needed to get whole families into stable and safe situations.

That is why, as a member of the Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence, I am proud to cosponsor a resolution to recognize the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and to have championed legislation that uplifts survivors across Arizona.

Together, as a Congress, we must commit to working to do whatever is in our power to secure justice for survivors both in and out of the courtroom.

This week I will reintroduce my Help End Abusive Living Situations or HEALS Act.

□ 1015

My bill will assist survivors of domestic violence to rapidly secure safe housing situations by directing the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to prioritize funds for transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

No person experiencing these crimes should be forced to stay in a dangerous situation because they do not have housing elsewhere.

The horrible legacy of domestic violence affects communities across our Nation, including Tribal communities.

As the Representative of Arizona's First Congressional District, I am humbled to represent 12 Sovereign Tribal Nations. Federal data indicates that 55 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner.

However, it is estimated that less than 1 percent of the Crime Victims Fund reaches Tribes.

This Congress, I reintroduced two of my bills that address domestic violence in Tribal communities.

First, the SURVIVE Act, a bill to provide legal, medical, and counseling resources to women and children in Tribal communities who are survivors of domestic violence. This bill also corrects the Crime Victims Fund's allocation to Tribes, ensuring they receive a fair percentage of resources.

Second, my Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act, bipartisan leg-

islation that ensures children and law enforcement officials in Tribal communities are protected when present at domestic violence incidents.

Currently, Tribes can convict non-Indian perpetrators of protection order violations, domestic violence, and dating violence.

But under current law, both the children of survivors and law enforcement officers who risk their lives to save victims are not protected by these same laws. My bill extends this Tribal jurisdiction to cover kids and cops, who so often deal with dangerous domestic situations.

I am committed to continued work with my colleagues in Congress, advocates on the ground in Arizona, and brave survivors. We hear you, and we believe you.

To those experiencing domestic violence and to those who have lost a loved one to this heinous and deeply personal form of violence, let me say this: I know that we cannot ever truly know your pain, but we will keep fighting for change at every level.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF LUKE SIEGEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a remarkable young man named Luke Siegel, who inspired so many with his strength of spirit and will to live in the face of tremendous adversity.

On July 28 of 2015, Luke suffered severe brain damage as a result of a tragic golf cart accident that changed his life forever and left him immobile, lifeless, and even without the ability to speak. Doctors said, Madam Speaker, that he would stay in that condition as long as he lived.

But, through the love and support of his family, the prayers of our wonderful community, and the relentless and tenacious fight that Luke brought every day, he defied all odds and the diagnoses of numerous doctors, recovering to a life no one believed was possible.

Sadly, on August 19, our hero and west Texas warrior, Luke Siegel, went home to be with his Heavenly Father. Luke is survived by one amazing family: father, Tim; mother, Jenny; and sisters Alex, Kate, and Ellie.

Madam Speaker, Luke never gave up. He was a symbol of hope for people throughout the country whose families have struggled with the challenges of traumatic brain injury. Luke is an inspiration to us all to live every day to the fullest and never give up no matter what the circumstances.

I am confident that Luke Siegel heard those beautiful and sweet words of our creator and Lord of heaven and Earth.

Madam Speaker, Luke fought the good fight, he finished the race, and he kept the faith. May Luke enter into his

eternal rest. God bless Luke Siegel, coach, your family, and God bless west Texas.

RECOGNIZING NANCY LILES

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of an outstanding lady, Nancy Liles, who recently retired after an illustrious 36-year career as executive director of the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Ms. Liles' passion for hospitality embodies the spirit of west Texas and has made Abilene a thriving tourist destination where visitors feel right at home.

West Texas is known for its friendliness and hospitality, and Ms. Liles has exemplified these attributes in her service to our community and the Key City.

Abilene, Texas, is a warmer and more welcoming place because of the leadership and service of Nancy Liles. We wish Nancy well as she spends more time with her family and continues to be a champion for the Big Country in Abilene, America. God bless, and go west Texas.

RECOGNIZING MINDY PATTERSON

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding west Texan, Ms. Mindy Patterson.

Mindy has served the city of Abilene for three decades, from her start as an entry-level accountant to her current position of deputy city manager.

This year marks her 30th year of service for the city of Abilene, and her colleagues know her as a servant leader and a tireless worker who will do anything for her beloved community.

The city manager, Robert Hanna, describes Ms. Patterson as somebody who is, "simply indispensable to my leadership team."

I am grateful to Ms. Patterson for her service to Abilene and look forward to even more successes from her in the future and for our great city and community.

God bless Ms. Patterson, who is keeping the wheels turning out in west Texas. And go west Texas.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GABRIELLA MILLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of a young constituent, Gabriella Miller, who passed away on this day 8 years ago due to an inoperable brain tumor.

Gabriella was a fierce fighter not just in her own battle with cancer, but as an advocate on behalf of the millions of other children who have suffered from this disease. In the months following her terminal diagnosis at age 9, Gabriella became a national force for change, urging Congress to grant increased funding and to develop better treatments and cures for childhood cancer.